Navodaya Colleges

*389. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up Navodaya Colleges in the country, on the lines of Navodaya Vidyalayas;

(b) if so the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) to (c) Clause 5.26 of the National Policy on Education lays down that in view of the need to effect an all round improvement in the institutions, in the near future, the main emphasis will be on the consolidation of, and expansion of facilities in, the existing institutions. Therefore, there is no proposal on the part of the Government to set up Navodaya Colleges in the Country.

Conservation of coastal and marine environment

*390. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to prepare an action plan for conservation of coastal and marine environment;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of achievements made by Government in this field during the last five years?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (d) Ministry of Environment and Forests launched a Scheme on Conservation and Management of Mangroves and Coral Reefs in 1986. On the recommendations of the National

Committee on Mangroves and Coral Reefs, 30 Mangrove and 4 Coral Reef areas in the country have been identified for intensive conservation and management. Management Action Plans for all the identified Mangrove and Coral Reef areas were prepared and an amount of Rs. 1317.28 lakhs was released to the concerned State Governments/Union Territories for implementation of these Management Action Plans during the Ninth Five Year Plan. As per the State of Forests Report (1999) an overall increase of 338 sq. km. of mangrove area in the country has been reported during the period 1995—1999.

This Ministry has also launched an All India Co-ordinated Project on Coastal and Marine Bio-diversity during the year 1999-2000. Main activities under this project include Survey and inventorisation. Training and Capacity Building in Taxonomy and Establishment of Database Network on the subject. The Coastal Shelterbelt Plantation Projects under integrated Afforestation and Eco-Development Project Scheme (IAEPS) envisage plantation in rows along the coastline to create a shelterbelt for checking soil erosion and sand ingress for protection of agricultural fields, homesteads, roads etc. To conserve and protect fragile coastal ecosystems, Ministry of Environment and Forests issued Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification, 1991 under the Environmental Protection Act (1986). Coastal Zone Management Authorities (CZMAs) have been constituted in all the coastal States/Union territories to ensure implementation of the provisions of the CRZ Notification, 1991. Coral Reefs have been included in Schedule 1 of the Wildlife Protection Act 1972. Sunderbans in West Bengal, Gulf of Mannar in Tamil Nadu and Nicobar Islands have been designated as Bio-sphere Reserves. Department of Ocean Development (DOD) has also launched a programme on Integrated Coastal and Marine Area Management (ICMAM) during the Ninth Plan period.